

## **The Ambassador Bridge**

The world's longest international suspension bridge, opened for traffic on November 15, 1929 at a cost of about \$24 million, approximately \$300 million in today's dollars.

### **Infrastructure**

- Length: 9,200 feet from entrance to exit.
- Span: 1,850 feet across Detroit River.
- Height: 152 feet at the center above the Detroit River.
- Width: 55 feet at a maximum grade of 5%, comprising of 47 feet roadway and 8 feet walkway for pedestrian traffic.
- Inspection booths: 13 primary inspection booths for trucks and 12 for passenger cars operated by Department of Homeland security.
- Toll Rates: \$2.75 for passenger cars. Minimum toll for commercial vehicle ranges from \$3.00 to \$18.25 depending on the number of axles.

### **Traffic**

The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest international commercial vehicle crossing in North America, with over 6 million passenger cars and 3 million trucks crossing annually. On a typical weekday, the Detroit River crossing carries around 36,000 cars and 13,000 trucks, with around 95% of the trucks using the bridge.

- 63% of the U.S. bound trucks were through traffic to Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Texas.
- 76 % of the Canada bound trucks were through traffic. Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana were the major generators of this through traffic.
- Passenger Vehicle traffic decreased by more than 22% between 2001 and 2006. Annual truck traffic has not changed much over this time period. The downturn in traffic could be a result of number of factors including downturn in economy in early 2001, value of dollar, opening of Casinos in Detroit, the War in Iraq and border inconveniences.

### **Economic Significance**

The Ambassador Bridge is a crucial part of the economic vitality of the region. It supports jobs and trade, particularly in the automotive, healthcare, and tourism industry.

- The Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit/Windsor tunnel carry almost a quarter of approximately \$400 billion annual trade between U.S. and Canada.
- Almost 75% of trade between Canada and the U.S. is by truck, many of which use the Ambassador Bridge.